

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title: Agua Caliente Prescribed Burn	Project No. 07-516
Region/GMU: Region 5/ Unit 33	HPC: Tucson
Project Type: Agua Caliente Prescribed Burn	
Project Description: The 11,194 acre Agua Caliente burn block is 1 of 8 burn blocks within the 40,850 acre Redington Pass Rx burn project (see attached map). This project includes landscape scale prescribed fire of woodlands and grasslands in Hunt Unit 33 Northeast of Tucson.	
Wildlife Species to Benefit: Coues whitetail, mule deer, turkey, quail, mountain lion, bear and various non-game species such as reptiles, neotropical birds and birds of prey.	
Possible Funding Partners:	
Implementation Schedule: Aqua Caliente Block Beginning: October, 2007 Completed: December, 2008	NEPA Compliance: (if applicable) Completed: Yes ____ No <u>X</u> Projected Completion Date: Oct. 1, 2007
PROJECT FUNDING	
SBG Funds Requested: \$ 40,000	
Cost Share Funds: \$ 122,200	
Total Project Costs: \$ 162,200	
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION	
Applicant: Larry Raley, District Ranger (please print) Telephone: 520-760-2306	Address: 5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road Tucson, AZ 85750
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel) John McGehee	
Coordinated with: AZGFD, Private, USFWS, Park Service	Date: June, 2007
Applicant's signature: /s/ Larry Raley	Date: August 21, 2007

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
Game Branch, 2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023
mdisney@azgfd.gov

WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC? YES X NO ____

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? NO.
IF SO WAS IT FUNDED? NA**

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Recently, the Coronado NF reviewed 26 projects proposed across the Forest and ranked them according to priority. The Agua Caliente Rx burn ranked out as the top priority for non-WUI landscape scale projects for 2008 and the Forest has great interest in its successful completion.

The Agua Caliente phase of the Redington Pass project is primarily for wildlife habitat improvement to address declining wildlife habitat conditions in the project area. A concurrent benefit will be realized as current fuel loads are decreased, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Action is needed to remove unusual accumulations of decadent desert scrub/chaparral species to improve the browse and forage conditions that currently exist. At present, existing vegetation and browse species are mature to decadent with a declining trend and have matured to a point of being out of reach of wild ungulates. Yet, these plants are competitive for limited moisture. Without an adequate understory of grasses, forbs and younger, more vigorous browse species present in the community, only the existing, older and well established species benefit when moisture is available.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The project objectives are:

- To improve the availability of forage and vigor of decadent stands of browse to improve habitat for whitetail in particular but also benefit the other wildlife species in this large area.
- Improve the ecological health within the local vegetation community by re-establishing an earlier seral stage within the project area.
- Continue the process of re-introducing fire to the ecosystem on a gradual basis and reduce the probability of severe, high-risk and catastrophic wildfires;
- Gradually decrease the unusually high concentration of southwestern chaparral that has accumulated;

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Implementation of the prescribed burns will typically occur in May or early June or during the fall to early winter months depending on when burn conditions are favorable to meet project objectives. Ignition will be conducted by hand and with the aid of a

helicopter.

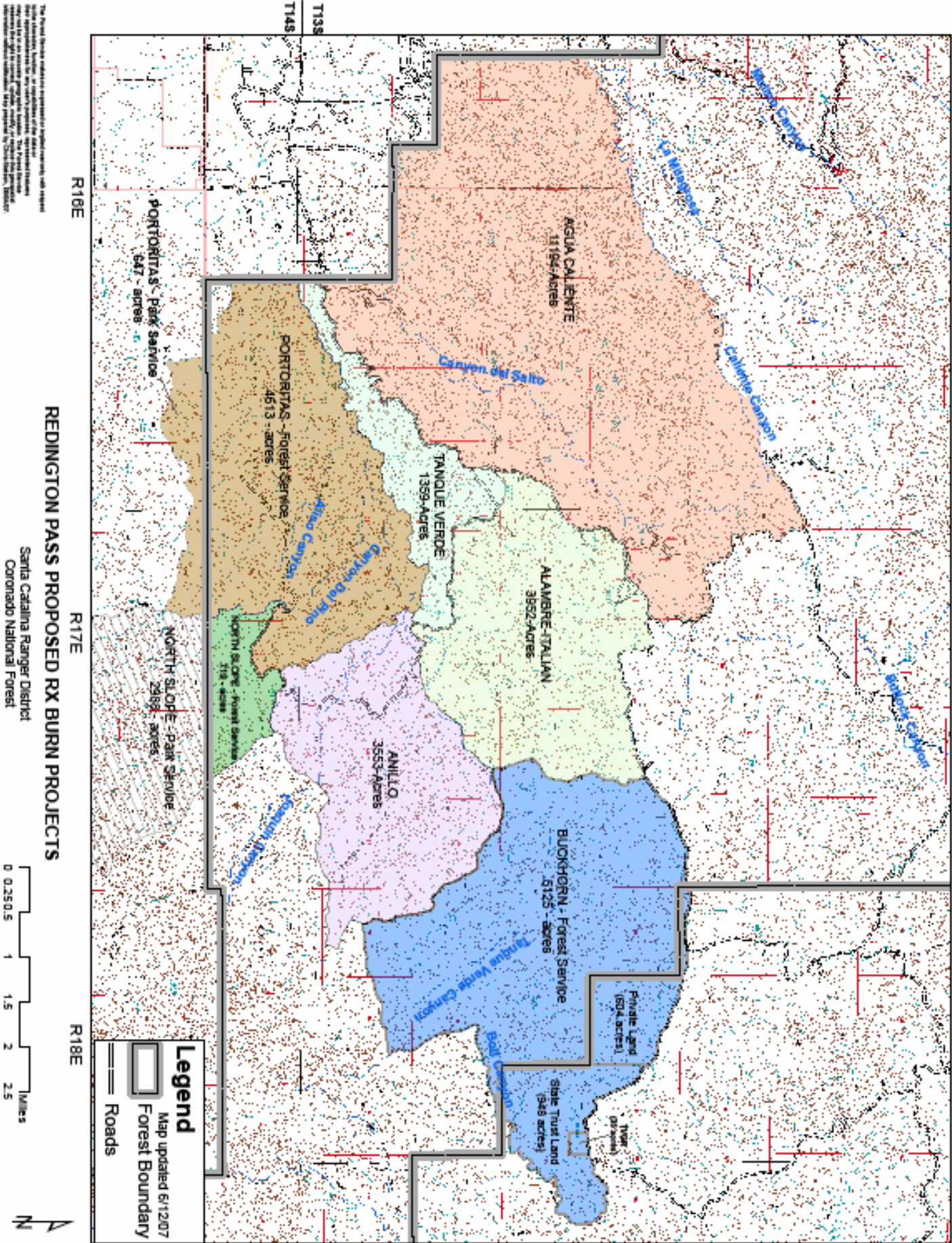
The prescribed fire treatments for each burn block will be implemented in accordance with the burn plan which will be on file at the Santa Catalina Ranger District office.

The size of the project and each burn block is illustrated below:

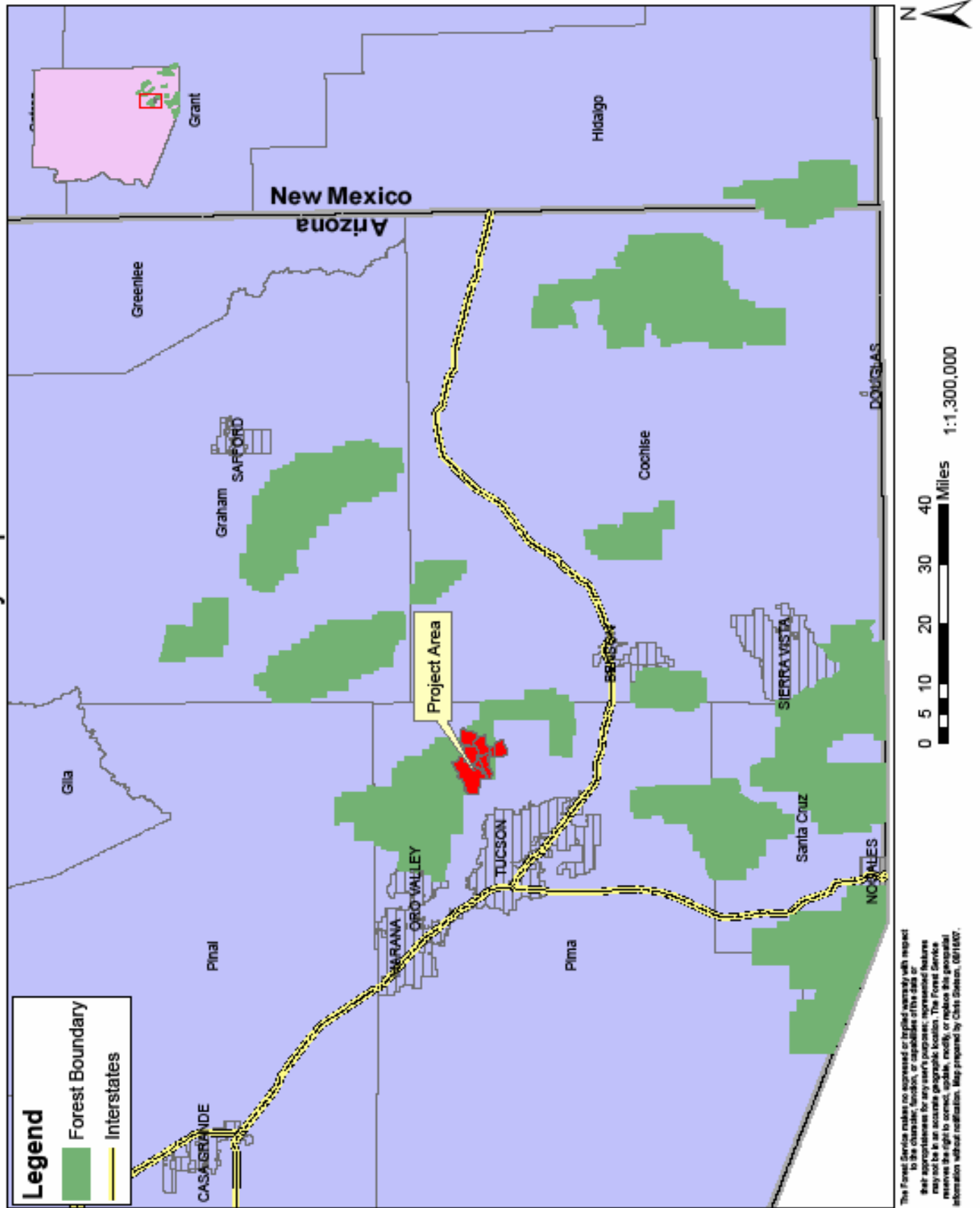
<u>BURN BLOCK</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>Ownerships</u>
1. Chimney Rock	8,100	USFS - Completed
2. Agua Caliente	11,194	USFS
3. North Slope	719	USFS, National Park Service (NPS)
4. Anillo	3,553	USFS, NPS
5. Buckhorn	6,712	USFS, Pima County (A7 Ranch)
6. Alambre/Italian Trap	3,952	USFS,
7. Portaritas	5,261	USFS, NPS
8. Tanque Verde	<u>1,359</u>	USFS and Private (AZ Sunshine Ranches)
TOTAL	40,850	

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located in Township 13 and 14 South, Range 16, 17 and 18 East on the Santa Catalina Ranger District, Pima County, Arizona. It extends from the Forest into Saguaro National Park, East, Arizona State Trust Land, Pima County land (A7 Ranch) and private lands owned by Arizona Sunshine Ranches, Inc. (see map)



Redington Pass Proposed Rx Burn Projects Vicinity Map



LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

National Forest Lands – 93%.

Arizona State Trust Land – 3%

Pima County Government (A7 Ranch) and private property (Arizona Sunshine Ranches, Inc.,) - 2%.

National Park Service lands – 2%.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? No

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The overall project area comprises desert grassland, desert scrub, broadleaf woodland and chaparral. All of the proposed units include extensive areas of grass mixed with a variety of trees including oak, juniper and mesquite. There are also numerous areas of rock outcrop that support little or no vegetation within each of the unit areas. Soil condition is generally satisfactory.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

ITEM	Number	DAYS/Hrs	Cost/Day	AMOUNT
Ignition Crew (2)	2	3	\$ 2,500	\$ 15,000
Holding Crew (2)	2	5	\$ 3,500	\$ 35,000
Type 6 Engine Crews (5)	4	5	\$ 1,000	\$ 20,000
Dozer Rental to prep Roads	1	5	\$ 500	\$ 2,500
Transport for Dozer	1	2	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
Overhead	5	5	\$ 250	\$ 6,250
Safety Officer (2)	1	5	\$ 350	\$ 1,750
Type 3 Helicopter	1	12	\$ 850	\$ 10,200
Water Tender (2)	1	5	\$ 1,500	\$ 7,500
Medical Unit	1	5	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000
Engine Type 3	2	4	\$ 1,500	\$ 12,000
Dip Tank Set Up	1	2	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
Line Prep	1	10	\$ 3,500	\$ 35,000
Fuel	1	5	\$ 350	\$ 1,750
Ignition Specialist	1	3	\$ 250	\$ 750
Ping Pong Balls	1	10000	\$ 0	\$ 2,500
Misc Expenses	1	1	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Total to Implement Agua Caliente				\$ 162,200
Ave cost/acre = \$14.				

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

As noted above there are 5 landowners within the project area with coordination occurring between them. We have not sought other outside funds as yet. The current hope is to receive the funds applied for in this application with the balance being covered with Forest Service funds.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Several survey plots have been established within the proposed burn area to establish existing vegetation composition. Additional transects will be established prior to treatment to estimate typical browse height and canopy cover.

During treatment the project area will be mapped according to fire severity; no fire, low, moderate and high fire severity. Transects will be read within the various fire severity areas to determine if treatment objectives were achieved.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: Initial burns are to be followed with maintenance burns every six to twelve years thereafter to ensure fire is present and able to play its natural role in the ecosystem. Findings from vegetation and wildlife monitoring efforts will be used to determine when maintenance burns are warranted.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado NF.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet): NA

TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):NA